infrastructure and other IT applications to face the emerging challenges of trade liberalization. A comprehensive policy package has been announced on 30th August, 2000 to strengthen the SSI sector. The package *inter-alia* includes easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loans upto Rs. 25.00 lakhs, capital subsidy for technological upgradation and improved infrastructure. In addition, Government have formulated National Programmes for the Development of the Indian Toy Industry, Lock Industry, machine Tool Industry and Stone Industry in association with United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), State Government, concerned indsutry associations etc. to enhance competitiveness of the SSIs in the these sectors.

Encouragement to small and medium Enterprises

2350. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Small Scale Industries Corporation has drawn up schemes to restructure small and medium enterprises in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the small and medium enterprises in the country are not properly encouraged resulting adverser impact on growth of such units; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the concrete steps taken to encourage small and medium enterprises in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) has drawn up may schemes to promote, aid and foster the growth of small scale industries in the country.

(b) To cater to the new requirements of SSIs new schemes are formulated from time to time. Some of the new schemes drawn up by

NSIC to enable SSIs to be competitive in globalized economy are "Mentoring Services", "Credit Rating of SSIs". etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Sick SSIs in Rajasthan

2351. DR. ABRAR AHMED : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick Small Scale Indsutries in Rajasthan as on date;

(b) the sector in which maximum number of sick SSI units fall; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to help these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) As per the latest data available from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) which compiles data on sick Small Scale Industrial (SSI) units financed by the scheduled commercial banks, there were 6395 sick SSI Units in Rajasthan as at the end of March, 2001. Sector-wise break-up of sick SSI units in various States is not available with the RBI.

(c) The Government is fully seized of the problem of industrial sickness amongst the SSI units and has taken various measures to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick industries including institutional mechanism in the form of State Level Inter Institutional Committees, special rehabilitation cells in banks and State financial institutions and elaborate guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India for extending rehabilitation assistance to eligible units. Further, based on the recommendations of the Working Group set up under the Chairmanship of Shri S.S. Kohli, the RBI has drawn up revised guidelines for rehabilitation of sick SSI units, which include, *inter-alia,* change in the definition of sick SSI units, norms for deciding on their viabilitiy, etc. The RBI has circulated the revised guidelines on 16th January, 2002 to all the Scheduled Commercial Banks for implementation.